

REMARKS

Claims 17, 18, and 21-44 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate limitations of Claims 19 and 20. Claims 19 and 20 have been canceled accordingly. Claims 21-24 have been amended to change their dependency according to cancellation of Claim 20. Claims 30-44 have been newly added. Claims 30 and 31 are directed to embodiments of Claim 17. Claim 32 has features of original Claims 17, 19, and 29. Claims 33-44 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 32 and correspond to Claims 18, 20-28, 30, and 31, respectively.

Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced and entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 17-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the term “flexible polymer” was criticized by the Examiner.

The term “flexible polymer” has been deleted from Claim 17.

Accordingly, the amendment to Claim 17 renders the rejection of Claims 17 and its dependent claims moot. Applicant respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 17-19 and 25-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Japanese patent application publication No. 7-254128 (“JP 7-254128”) in view of Kaitsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,562,481) (“Kaitsu”) and further in view of Murata et al. (US 2003/0186085)

("Murata"). Applicants note that Claims 20-24 and 29, which directly or indirectly depend from Claim 17, are not rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claim 17 has been amended to recite the features of Claim 20, which was not included in this rejection.

Accordingly, it is believed that the amendment renders the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 moot and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

New Claims 30-44

Claim 30 depends from Claim 17, in which a polymer support is a resin film containing at least one of polyethylene terephthalate and polyethylene naphthalate. Support can be found, for example, in original Claim 19 as well as the disclosure of the specification, at page 20, lines 4-8. Claim 31 depends from Claim 17, in which the polymer support has a thickness of from 10 to 63 μm . Support can be found, for example, in the disclosure of the specification, the paragraph bridging pages 20 and 21 and the last paragraph of page 31.

Claim 32 has features of original Claims 17, 19, and 29. Claims 33-44 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 32 and correspond to Claims 18, 20-28, 30, and 31, respectively.

Accordingly, newly added Claims 30-44 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention and are patentable over the references cited in the Office Action dated December 17, 2004.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN: 10/753,366

Q79365

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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